

illuminating idea

A contemporary extension has completely transformed Nathalie Jouy's kitchen into a light-filled space to enjoy

PICTURES **ELYSE KENNEDY** | WORDS **AMELIA THORPE**



**BISTRO
STYLE**

The vintage French café table was the inspiration for the marble-clad island and splashback

After living in her Victorian terraced house in Clapham, south London, for 35 years, teacher Nathalie Jouy decided she would give herself a very special present on her retirement – a new kitchen. 'I wanted a room filled with natural light, designed for socialising and entertaining,' she says.

French-born Nathalie says that she had longed to widen the 'very dark and narrow' kitchen for years. 'When I bought the house, the room had been used by the previous owner as the space to keep his rabbit hutches,' she smiles. Although she installed a new kitchen on moving in and refreshed it over the years, she grew increasingly frustrated by the gloom of the space and unused side alley. 'I could see the potential to build over the side return – and my retirement was the opportunity to create the kitchen I wanted, and make a space to enjoy,' she explains.

Following up a recommendation from a local builder, Nathalie was introduced to architect

Patrick Owens of Patrick + Ryan. 'I can't praise Patrick enough for the way he designed the side extension, linking it to both the sitting room at one end and to the patio at the other, and the way the almost frameless glass doors and skylight introduce lots of natural light,' she says. 'He really taught me to persevere and take my time to choose the right items, including the sliding doors and the beautiful marble surfaces.'

In keeping with Nathalie's love of minimalist design, the cabinetry is streamlined and handleless, and finished in a soft matt grey to offset the natural veining of the book-matched marble splashback and island. 'The look is very clean and simple, and it enhances the sense of space and flow,' she says. A warm grey stone-effect floor prevents the kitchen looking clinical, while three striking pendant lights, originally designed by Louis Poulsen in the 1950s, add a touch of glamour and fun. Says Nathalie: 'It's a wonderful room for lunches and coffees with friends and family, or simply for sitting to enjoy looking up at the stars and moon at night.' *EKBB*

CLUTTER-FREE CHIC

Tucked under the stairs, the door to the new laundry cupboard, with tall cupboards housing fridge, freezer and larder, recessed into the central 'wedge'

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INSIDE OUT

The same porcelain floor tiles were used inside and out, to create an almost seamless connection with the patio garden

NATURAL BEAUTY

'Marble is more porous than some other stone and quartz surfaces, and it will be stained by splashes of tea and lemon juice, but to me, they don't damage its natural beauty,' says Nathalie



SLEEK AND SEAMLESS

Plenty of cupboards offer lots of storage, so Nathalie can keep clutter out of sight, in keeping with the minimalist look she prefers



'We were able to almost double the size of the kitchen without swallowing up any of the patio space to the rear, and still create a light-filled space'



PATRICK OWENS
PATRICK + RYAN

How did you begin the project? By building over the side return, we were able to almost double the size of the existing kitchen, without swallowing up any of the patio space to the rear. Nathalie was clear that she wanted a light-filled space, so the challenge was to create something beautiful and open as well as practical.

How did you achieve this? We were able to recess the fridge, freezer and larder into the end wall, and tuck the washing machine and dryer into a specially built laundry cupboard under the stairs. This meant that the cooking zone and storage could be built in a streamlined section along one wall, and the island

made to be the striking focal point of the room, without the need for any other visual disturbance in sight.

Can you tell us more about the island? Nathalie has a favourite vintage café table topped in marble, and it was the inspiration for the island. We searched carefully for just the right slab, and used it to 'wrap' the island so that it looks as if it is one block of stone. It can be seen from the front door, with the garden beyond, so it makes a strikingly beautiful statement on entering the house. Creating a minimalist design looks simple, but it can be very difficult, because every detail counts - the finish must be absolutely perfect.



REACH FOR THE SKIES

The frameless skylight allows maximum natural light into the new room



'I wanted a room filled with natural light, designed for socialising and entertaining'

DOG DAYS
Nathalie's Border Collie, Sassie, is also a big fan of the new open-plan life



SIMPLE TOUCHES
Handleless cupboards are opened using finger channels, finished in the same colour as the cabinetry

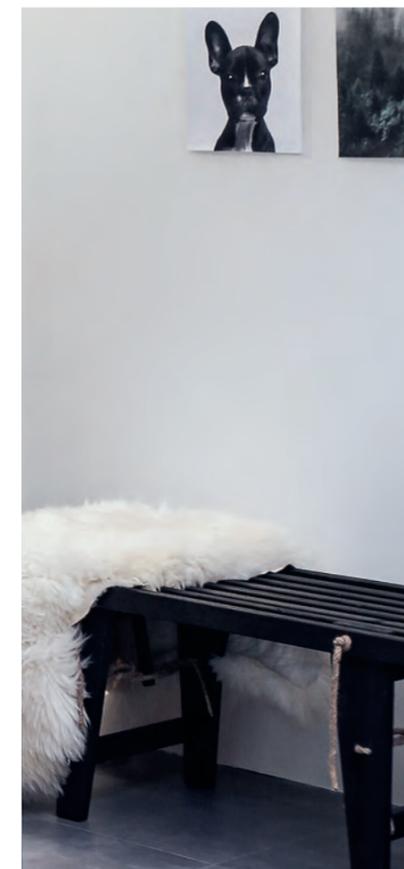


LINEAR LOOKS
Crisp lines accentuate the contemporary style of the furniture

Kitchen profile

Bespoke cabinetry is finished in matt pale grey which appears to subtly change in shade according to the way light falls on its surface during the day. A book-matched Carrara marble splashback and counter tops add sophisticated beauty, with darker grey stone-effect floor used to ground the design in this contemporary light-filled space.

PATRICK + RYAN
1 Queens Walk, London, W5 1TP.
Tel 020 8935 5143.
patrickandryan.co.uk
Kitchen prices from £25,000.



PIECES OF ME
Vintage furniture adds character and makes for a relaxing spot for breakfast or coffee with friends



Stockists

APPLIANCES

Similar appliances: HB672GBS1B **oven**, £899; CM676GBS6B **combination microwave**, £1,429; EX851FVC1E **induction hob**, £1,089; GU15DA50GB integrated under counter **freezer**, £529; SN678D01TG fully integrated **dishwasher**, £1,049, all Siemens. Sleek stainless steel built-in **extractor hood**, £569, Elica. KSV36VB30G integrated **fridge**, £799; GIN38A55GB integrated **freezer**, £1,269, both Bosch.

FIXTURES AND FURNISHINGS

Clearwater Cherika **tap** in brushed nickel, £212; Clearwater Salsa SA77 undermounted stainless steel **sink**, £406, both Sterling. Carrara marble **worktops** and **splashback**, priced to order, Patrick + Ryan. Creacon DG Dark Grey 60x60cm porcelain **floor tiles**, £36.86 per sq. m, European Heritage. Louis Poulsen Doo Wop **pendant lights** in brass, £470 each, and in white, £290, all Panik Design. **Sliding glass doors**, priced to order, Maxlight.

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A ROOM WITH A VIEW

'When the sun shines, I feel as if I am somewhere near the Mediterranean,' says Nathalie

